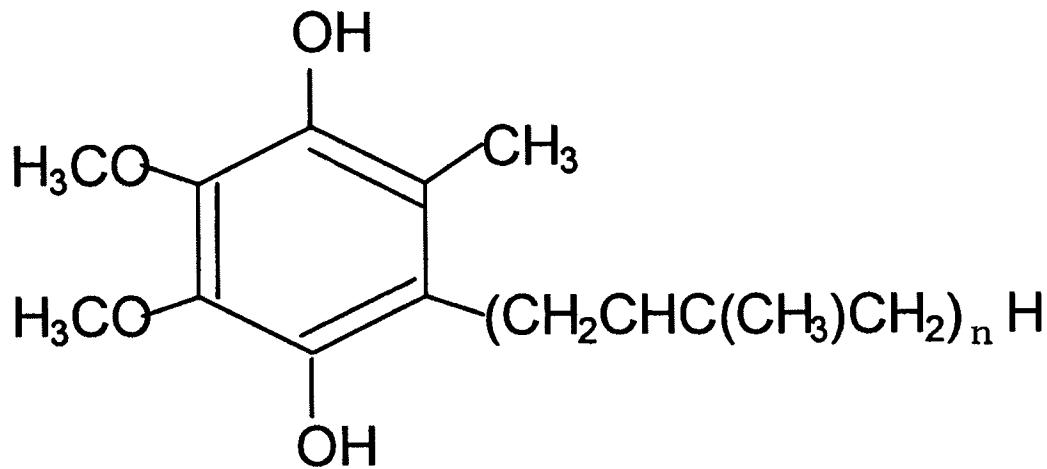


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (withdrawn): A composition for protecting liver functions, which comprises reduced coenzyme Q represented by formula (1):



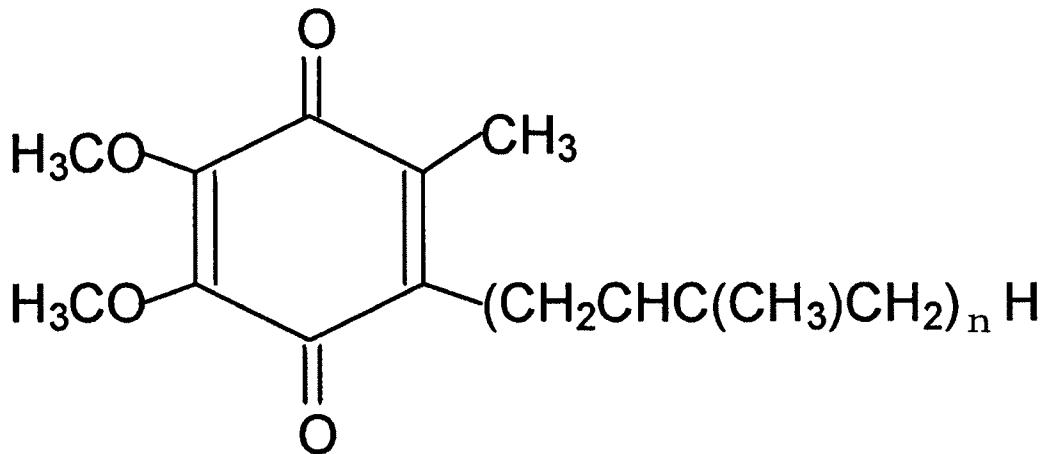
(1)

(wherein n represents an integer in the range of 1 to 12).

2. (withdrawn): The composition according to claim 1, wherein the reduced coenzyme Q is reduced coenzyme Q₁₀.

3. (withdrawn): The composition according to claim 1, wherein the content of the reduced coenzyme Q is in the range of 0.001 to 99 percent by weight.
4. (withdrawn): The composition according to claim 1, which further comprises a health food material.
5. (withdrawn): A pharmaceutical formulation for protecting liver functions, which comprises the composition according to claim 1.
6. (withdrawn): The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 5, which is in the form of a powder, or a capsule formulation.
7. (withdrawn): The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 5, which is in the form of a drinkable preparation, an injectable solution, or an infusion or a drops formulation.
8. (withdrawn): A functional food for protecting liver functions, which comprises the composition according to claim 1.
9. (withdrawn): An animal feeding stuff for protecting liver functions, which comprises the composition according to claim 1.
10. (previously presented): A method for protecting liver functions of a mammal, which comprises administering to a mammal the composition according to claim 1.
11. (previously presented): A method for protecting liver functions of a mammal, which comprises orally administering the composition according to claim 1.

12. (withdrawn): A composition for protecting liver functions, which comprises oxidized coenzyme Q represented by formula (2) and selenium, wherein the content of the selenium is less than 0.01 percent by weight:



(2)

(wherein n represents an integer in the range of 1 to 12).

13. (withdrawn): The composition according to claim 12, which is used for oral administration.

14. (withdrawn): The composition according to claim 12, wherein the oxidized coenzyme Q is oxidized coenzyme Q₁₀.

15. (withdrawn): The composition according to claim 12, wherein the content of the oxidized coenzyme Q is in the range of 0.001 to 99 percent by weight.

16. (withdrawn): The composition according to claim 12, which further comprises a health food material.

17. (withdrawn): A pharmaceutical formulation for protecting liver functions, which comprises the composition according to claim 12.

18. (withdrawn): The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 17, which is in the form of a granulation, a powder, or a capsule formulation.

19. (withdrawn): The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 17, which is in the form of a drinkable preparation, an injectable solution, or an infusion or a drops formulation.

20. (withdrawn): A functional food for protecting liver functions, which comprises the composition according to claim 12.

21. (withdrawn): An animal feeding stuff for protecting liver functions, which comprises the composition according to claim 12.

22. (previously presented): A method for protecting liver functions of a mammal, which comprises administering to a mammal the composition according to claim 12.

23. (new): The method for protecting liver functions of a mammal according to claim 10, which reduces an increase in GPT or GOT activity in blood.

24. (new): The method for protecting liver functions of a mammal according to claim 11, which reduces an increase in GPT or GOT activity in blood.

25. (new): The method for protecting liver functions of a mammal according to claim 22, which reduces an increase in GPT or GOT activity in blood.